

CBSE Class 12 English Core

Sample Paper – 7

Duration: 180 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions

- This question paper contains **13 questions**. All questions are **compulsory**.
- The paper is divided into **three sections**: **Section A** (Reading Skills – 22 marks), **Section B** (Creative Writing Skills – 18 marks) and **Section C** (Literature – 40 marks).
- Attempt all questions based on the specific instructions given for each part.
- Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- **Adhere to the prescribed word limit** while answering the questions.
- There is **no overall choice**, but an **internal choice** has been provided in some questions. Attempt only one of the alternatives in such questions.
- Marks for each question/part are indicated against it in [].

Section A – Reading Skills (22 Marks)

Q1. Read the following passage carefully.

[12]



1. For three weeks now, Ramdin had watched the sky the way a mother watches a sick child. Every morning he stepped out of his low mud house before the sun had fully risen, cupped a hand over his eyes, and searched the pale horizon for the smallest smudge of cloud. His four acres lay cracked and brown around him, the earth split into a thousand little plates that curled at the edges like burnt bread. The seed he had sown lay waiting beneath that crust, neither dead nor alive, holding its breath for the rain that would not come.

2. He was not a man who prayed loudly. Yet these days his lips moved on their own as he walked the dry bunds of his field, counting the days, counting the rupees he had borrowed, counting the mouths at home. The monsoon should have arrived a fortnight ago. In good years it swept up from the south in great grey armies, and the first heavy drops struck the dust like coins thrown down from heaven. This year the clouds gathered at the edge of the sky each afternoon, teased the parched land with a distant rumble, and then drifted away as though they had somewhere better to be.

3. The whole village lived on the same knife-edge of waiting. At the tea stall old men argued about whether the delay was a punishment or merely the weather. The younger men spoke of leaving for the city if the rains failed again. Ramdin listened and said little; he had lived through a failed monsoon once before, and he knew the slow, grinding hunger it left behind. He thought of his daughter's schoolbooks and his wife's thinning face, and something tightened in his chest that was not quite fear and not quite hope.

4. Then, on the nineteenth evening, the wind changed. It came from the west, cool and sudden, carrying with it the unmistakable smell of wet earth from some far-off place where the rain had already fallen. Ramdin stood very still in the middle of his field. Above him the sky was darkening, not with dusk but with cloud, piling up in soft grey towers. A single drop struck his forehead, then another on the back of his outstretched hand.

5. And then the sky opened. The rain came down in long silver ropes, drumming on the roofs, filling the cracks, soaking the thirsty seed. Ramdin did not run for shelter. He tilted his face upward and let the water run down his cheeks, and if some of it was not rain, no one was there to see. The earth around his feet began to darken and soften and breathe again, and he laughed aloud like a boy, alone in his own drenched field.

(457 words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (i) Which comparison in paragraph 1 shows how anxiously Ramdin watched the sky?
(1)
- (ii) Complete the following suitably: The writer describes the cracked earth as splitting into plates that curled “like _____”, in order to suggest that the land



- was _____ . (1)
- (iii) The writer suggests all of the following about Ramdin EXCEPT — (1)
- A. that he was burdened by debt
 - B. that he had faced a failed monsoon before
 - C. that he complained loudly about the delay
 - D. that he worried about his family
- (iv) Why does the writer say the clouds “teased the parched land” before drifting away?
Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (v) Based on paragraph 3, state *one* way the writer shows that the whole village shared Ramdin’s anxiety. (1)
- (vi) The word “unmistakable” in paragraph 4 (“the unmistakable smell of wet earth”) is closest in meaning to: (1)
- A. faint
 - B. clearly recognisable
 - C. unpleasant
 - D. imagined
- (vii) What does the detail that Ramdin “did not run for shelter” reveal about his feelings when the rain finally came? (1)
- (viii) How does the final paragraph mark a change in Ramdin’s mood from the earlier part of the passage? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (ix) Complete the following with the most suitable option. The central idea of the passage is _____ . (1)
- A. the beauty of village life
 - B. a farmer’s anxious wait for the monsoon and the relief it brings
 - C. the hardships of city migration
 - D. the science of the Indian monsoon
- (x) Why does the writer add that “if some of it was not rain, no one was there to see”?
(Any one reason) (1)

Q2. Read the following passage carefully.

[10]



1. A residents' welfare association in a mid-sized town carried out a month-long study of how a typical four-member household uses its water. The aim was to help families understand where their water actually goes, so that everyday habits, rather than large one-time changes, could bring down waste. Meters and simple daily logs were used to record consumption across five common activities.

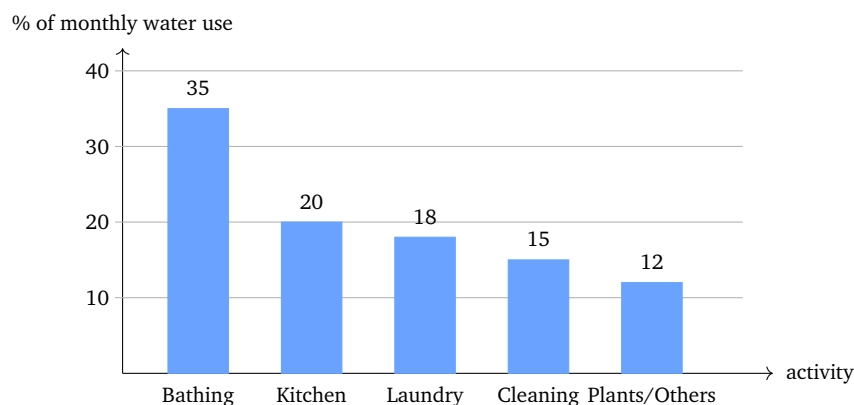
2. The findings surprised many families. Bathing turned out to be the single largest use of water in the average home, accounting for more than a third of the monthly total. The kitchen came next, covering drinking, cooking and the washing of utensils. Laundry followed closely behind, while general cleaning of floors and surfaces took up a smaller but steady share. Watering plants and other outdoor uses made up the smallest slice of all.

3. The study noted that small leaks and running taps quietly added to every category. A single dripping tap, the report pointed out, can waste enough water in a month to fill several large drums. Families were also using drinking-quality water for tasks such as washing courtyards, where collected or reused water would have done just as well.

4. The association suggested practical steps: fixing leaks promptly, installing low-flow taps and shower fittings, reusing kitchen water for plants, and being mindful during bathing and laundry. It stressed that no single measure was a magic solution; the savings came from many small, steady changes made by everyone in the family.

5. The percentage share of household water used by each activity is shown in the bar graph below.

(Created for academic usage / 268 words)



Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

- (i) What was the main purpose of the study described in the passage? (1)
- A. To increase the price of water in the town
 - B. To help families understand where their water goes and reduce waste
 - C. To compare water bills across different towns
 - D. To replace all household taps with new ones



- (ii) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in brackets. The study suggests that savings came mainly from many small, _____ changes (*sudden* / *steady* / *costly*). (1)
- (iii) Based on the bar graph, which activity accounted for the largest share of monthly water use? (1)
- (iv) Why does the passage say that even a single dripping tap is a serious concern? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (v) Complete the sentence with reference to the bar graph: The activity that used the smallest share of household water was _____. (1)
- (vi) What does the phrase “quietly added to every category” in paragraph 3 suggest about small leaks and running taps? (1)
- (vii) How does the association suggest that ordinary families can cut down their water use? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (viii) Select the option that is NOT stated in the passage. (1)
- A. Bathing was the single largest use of water.
 - B. Drinking-quality water was sometimes used for washing courtyards.
 - C. Watering plants used the largest share of water.
 - D. Reusing kitchen water for plants was recommended.

Section B – Creative Writing Skills (18 Marks)

All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

Q3. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. [4]

(A) You are Ishaan Gupta, the Head Boy of St. Thomas School, Bhopal. In association with the district blood bank, the school is organising a **Blood Group Determination Drive** for senior students. Write a notice in about 50 words informing students and inviting them to register. Put your notice in a box.

OR

(B) You are Priya Menon, the Cultural Secretary of Vidya Mandir School, Coimbatore. The students of Class 12 are organising a **Farewell Party** for the outgoing batch. Write a notice in about 50 words informing students of Class 11 and 12 and inviting them to attend. Put your notice in a box.



Q4. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. [4]

(A) As the Head Girl of Modern Public School, Lucknow, draft a formal invitation to Dr. Anil Kapoor, a distinguished scientist, requesting him to be the chief guest at the school's Annual **Prize Distribution Ceremony**. Provide the essential details.

OR

(B) You are Dr. Anil Kapoor. Write a formal reply in about 50 words accepting the invitation to be the chief guest at the Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony and expressing your gratitude.

Q5. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120–150 words. [5]

(A) You are Kabir Sethi of 15, Green Park, Indore. Write a letter to the Editor of *The Central Chronicle* drawing attention to the **unsafe and neglected condition of a public playground** in your locality, and suggesting measures to make it safe for children. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- broken swings and overgrown grass
- no boundary fencing or lighting
- risk to young children
- need for repair and regular maintenance

OR

(B) You are Nisha Rao of 4-C, Palm Residency, Bhubaneswar. You have seen the following advertisement in *The Daily Post* for the post of a **Library Assistant**. Write a letter applying for the position. Include your bio-data with the application.

City Central Library

We require a **Library Assistant** with: good organisational skills; familiarity with cataloguing and computers; a helpful attitude to readers.

Qualification: Graduate, preferably with a diploma in Library Science. **Ex-**

perience: Freshers may apply.

Send your application with bio-data to: The Chief Librarian, City Central Library, 20 Station Road, Bhubaneswar.



Q6. Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120–150 words. [5]

(A) Many teenagers now spend most of their free time glued to phones and screens. You are Aarav Nair. Write an article for your school magazine titled “**The Growing Problem of Screen Addiction**”, discussing why it matters and how it can be controlled. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- hours lost to screens
- effects on health and studies
- role of self-control and parents
- practical ways to cut screen time

OR

(B) The students of your school recently organised a **Cleanliness Drive** in the neighbourhood. As the Student Council Secretary, Tara Joshi, write a report for the school magazine describing the event. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- purpose and organisation
- student participation
- areas cleaned and waste collected
- overall outcome

Section C – Literature (40 Marks)

Prescribed texts: Flamingo and Vistas.

Q7. Read the following extract and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). [6]

(A)

*Driving from my parent’s
home to Cochin last Friday
morning, I saw my mother,
beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realised with pain*



*that she was as old as she
looked . . .*

(My Mother at Sixty-six)

- (i) Where is the poet travelling, and with whom? (1)
- (ii) Complete the following suitably: The poet compares her sleeping mother's face to that of a _____ . (1)
- (iii) What does the word "ashen" suggest about the mother's appearance? (1)
- (iv) The poet's "pain" arises mainly from _____ (*the long journey / the fear of losing her mother / the morning traffic*). (1)
- (v) Why does the poet notice that her mother is "as old as she looked"? (1)
- (vi) State one poetic device used in the extract, with an example. (1)

OR

(B)

*The little old house was out with a little new shed
In front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped,
A roadside stand that too pathetically pleaded,
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint. (A Roadside
Stand)*

- (i) Where has the roadside stand been set up? (1)
- (ii) What does the stand "pathetically plead" for? (1)
- (iii) Complete the following: The word "pathetically" shows the poet's _____ for the rural folk. (1)
- (iv) The phrase "the flower of cities" refers to _____ (*city gardens / the prosperity of cities / roadside plants*). (1)
- (v) What contrast does the poet draw between the country people and the city? (1)
- (vi) Identify the tone of the extract. (1)

Q8. Read the following extract and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). [4]

(A)



The presidents of the railroads will swear on a stack of timetables that there are only two levels at Grand Central. But I say there are three, because I've been on the third level of the Grand Central Station. Yes, I've taken the obvious step: I talked to my psychiatrist friend.
(The Third Level)

- (i) How many levels do the railway presidents insist Grand Central has? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: Charley claims to have been on the _____ level of the station. (1)
- (iii) Why does Charley talk to his psychiatrist friend? (1)
- (iv) The third level is best understood as a symbol of _____ (escape from anxiety / a real station / a lost ticket). (1)

OR

(B)

The moment the tiger king was born, the astrologers foretold that one day he would actually have to die. "The child will grow up to become the warrior of warriors, but . . . your death will come from a tiger." At this the ten-day-old infant is said to have spoken: "Let tigers beware!"
(The Tiger King)

- (i) What did the astrologers foretell at the king's birth? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence: The infant's reply "Let tigers beware!" is meant to sound _____. (1)
- (iii) What does the prophecy set in motion in the king's life? (1)
- (iv) The tone of the writer here is best described as _____ (admiring / satirical / fearful). (1)

Q9. Read the following extract and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). **[6]**

(A)

A big bruiser of a boy, probably eighteen years old, picked me up and tossed me into the deep end. I landed in a sitting position,



swallowed water, and went at once to the bottom. I was frightened, but not yet frightened out of my wits. On the way down I planned: When my feet hit the bottom, I would make a big jump. . . (Deep Water)

- (i) Who threw the narrator into the deep end of the pool? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: On landing in the water, the narrator immediately went to the _____ . (1)
- (iii) What plan did the narrator make as he sank? (1)
- (iv) The narrator says he was “frightened, but not yet frightened out of my wits”, which means he _____ (*had lost all control / could still think / was already drowning*). (1)
- (v) How does this incident shape the rest of Douglas’s life? (1)
- (vi) Identify the emotion that dominates this extract. (1)

OR

(B)

“What I did,” Gandhi said, “was a very ordinary thing. I declared that the British could not order me about in my own country.” . . . He was leading the peasants of Champaran, and the battle against their landlords had begun to take a new turn. (Indigo)

- (i) What “very ordinary thing” does Gandhi say he did? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: Gandhi was leading the peasants of _____ . (1)
- (iii) Why does Gandhi call his act “a very ordinary thing”? (1)
- (iv) The extract mainly highlights the theme of _____ (*self-reliance and courage / farming methods / personal fame*). (1)
- (v) What was the peasants’ main grievance against the landlords? (1)
- (vi) Identify one quality of Gandhi revealed in this extract. (1)

Q10. Answer **any five** of the following six questions in 40–50 words each.
[5×2=10]



- (i) According to Keats in *A Thing of Beauty*, what are some of the beautiful things that keep us attached to life? (2)
- (ii) What do the tigers that Aunt Jennifer creates symbolise in *Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*? (2)
- (iii) Why did the interviewer's questions make Umberto Eco reflect on how he manages to do so much work? (*The Interview*) (2)
- (iv) How did Gandhi's arrival change the mood of the peasants in Champaran? (*Indigo*) (2)
- (v) What lesson did Douglas finally learn from his struggle with water in *Deep Water*? (2)
- (vi) Why does the poet "put that thought away" in *My Mother at Sixty-six*? (2)

Q11. Answer **any two** of the following three questions in 40–50 words each.
[2×2=4]

- (i) How does Mr. Lamb try to change Derry's view of himself in *On the Face of It*? (2)
- (ii) What warning does Antarctica hold for the future of our planet in *Journey to the End of the Earth*? (2)
- (iii) What does the incident with the shopkeeper teach Zitkala-Sa's community about dignity in *The Memories of Childhood*? (2)

Q12. Answer **any one** of the following two questions in about 120–150 words.
[5]

(A) In *Deep Water*, Douglas shows that a deep fear can be mastered through courage and effort. Discuss how his experience conveys this larger lesson about facing our fears.

OR

(B) *The Last Lesson* shows that love for one's language is closely tied to love for one's country. Discuss how the story brings out this bond between patriotism and language.

Q13. Answer **any one** of the following two questions in about 120–150 words.
[5]



(A) In *The Enemy*, Dr. Sadao is torn between his duty as a doctor and his loyalty to his country. Discuss how the story explores the moral duty of a doctor.

OR

(B) “The third level was a medium of escape.” Analyse how Charley’s search reflects a common human desire to flee from the anxiety of modern life.



Model Answers & Marking Scheme

The answers below are indicative. Credit should be given to any other valid, well-expressed response. In writing tasks, marks are for format, content, and expression.

Q1.**Model Answer****Section A — Passage 1 (Reading).**

- (i) He watched the sky “the way a mother watches a sick child”, a comparison that shows his deep, constant anxiety. (1)
- (ii) The earth curled “like **burnt bread**”, suggesting that the land was **parched, cracked and lifeless** from the long drought. (1)
- (iii) **C** — he complained loudly. (The text says he “was not a man who prayed loudly” and “said little”.) (1)
- (iv) The clouds gathered and rumbled each afternoon, raising the farmers’ hopes of rain, but then drifted away without falling—so they seemed to mock, or “tease”, the dry land with a promise they did not keep. (2)
- (v) Any one: at the tea stall the old men argued about the delay; the young men spoke of leaving for the city; everyone lived “on the same knife-edge of waiting”. (1)
- (vi) **B** — clearly recognisable. (1)
- (vii) It reveals his joy and relief; he wants to feel the long-awaited rain on his skin instead of hiding from it. (1)
- (viii) The earlier part is heavy with anxiety, debt and fear; the final paragraph turns to pure relief and joy as the rain falls, and Ramdin laughs “like a boy”, released from his long, tense wait. (2)
- (ix) **B** — a farmer’s anxious wait for the monsoon and the relief it brings. (1)
- (x) Any one: to hint gently that he was weeping with relief; to show his deep emotion without stating it directly. (1)

[Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

Model Answer**Section A — Passage 2 (Reading).**

- (i) **B** — to help families understand where their water goes and reduce waste. (1)
- (ii) **steady**. (1)
- (iii) **Bathing** (the tallest bar, at 35%). (1)
- (iv) A single dripping tap wastes a steady, unnoticed amount of water day after day—enough in a month to fill several large drums—so a fault that looks tiny quietly adds up to a large loss. (2)
- (v) **Plants/Others** (the shortest bar, at 12%). (1)
- (vi) It suggests that small leaks and running taps waste water unnoticed—their loss is hidden and gradual, yet it adds to the total in every category of use. (1)
- (vii) By fixing leaks promptly, installing low-flow taps and shower fittings, reusing kitchen water for plants, and being mindful during bathing and laundry—many small, steady changes rather than one big step. (2)
- (viii) **C** — Watering plants used the largest share of water (the passage says outdoor use was the *smallest* slice). (1)

[Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

Model Answer

Section B — Notice (any one). *Format (4): box + name of issuing body + “NOTICE” + date + heading + body (what/when/where/whom) + signature, name, designation.*

(A) Blood Group Determination Drive — indicative answer:



ST. THOMAS SCHOOL, BHOPAL**NOTICE**

3 July 20XX

Blood Group Determination Drive

In association with the district blood bank, the school is holding a Blood Group Determination Drive for senior students on Saturday, 12 July, from 9 a.m. in the school medical room. Knowing your blood group can save lives. Interested students may register with the undersigned by 10 July.

Ishaan Gupta
Head Boy

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 1. (4) [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

Model Answer**Section B — Formal Invitation / Reply (any one).**

(A) Invitation — indicative: Modern Public School, Lucknow, cordially invites Dr. Anil Kapoor to grace the Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony as chief guest on Saturday, 19 July 20XX, at 10 a.m. in the school auditorium. Your presence would inspire our achievers. *(RSVP with name/designation.)*

(B) Reply — indicative: Dr. Anil Kapoor thanks Modern Public School for its kind invitation and is honoured to accept the role of chief guest at the Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony on 19 July. He looks forward to felicitating the students on their achievements.

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 1. (4) [Go Back to Q4](#)

Q5.

Model Answer

Section B — Letter (any one). *Format (1): sender's address, date, receiver, subject, salutation, body, complimentary close.*

(A) Letter to Editor — key content: draw attention to a neglected public playground; broken swings and overgrown grass; no boundary fencing or lighting; the danger this poses to young children who play there; urge the authorities to repair the equipment, fence and light the ground, and maintain it regularly before an accident occurs.

(B) Job Application — key content: state the post (Library Assistant) and source



of the advertisement; express interest; highlight organisational skills, familiarity with cataloguing and computers, and a helpful attitude to readers; enclose bio-data (name, qualification, skills, contact); request an interview.

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 2. (5) [Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

Model Answer

Section B — Article / Report (any one).

(A) Article “The Growing Problem of Screen Addiction” — key content: title + by-line; teenagers lose many hours daily to phones and screens; effects on eyesight, sleep, posture and falling concentration in studies; the role of self-control and of parents in setting limits; practical remedies—screen-free meal and study times, outdoor play and hobbies, app timers, and leading by example.

(B) Report “Cleanliness Drive” — key content: title + by-line/reporter; purpose (a cleaner, healthier neighbourhood and public awareness); organised by the Student Council; enthusiastic student participation with gloves and bags; parks, lanes and a market corner cleaned and several sacks of waste collected and segregated; a successful event ending with a pledge to keep the area clean.

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 2. (5) [Go Back to Q6](#)

Q7.

Model Answer

Section C — Poetry extract (any one).

(A) My Mother at Sixty-six:

- (i) She is driving from her parents’ home to Cochin, with her ageing mother seated beside her. (1)
- (ii) ... a **corpse**. (1)
- (iii) It suggests the mother’s face is pale, greyish and drained of colour and life, like ash. (1)
- (iv) **the fear of losing her mother**. (1)
- (v) Seeing her mother dozing, still and pale, makes the poet suddenly aware of her age and nearness to death. (1)
- (vi) Simile — “ashen like that of a corpse” (also imagery). (1)



(B) A Roadside Stand: (i) at the edge of a busy road/highway where traffic speeds past (1); (ii) for a share of the money or cash of the passing city-dwellers, not merely for charity (1); (iii) **sympathy/pity** (1); (iv) **the prosperity of cities** (1); (v) the poor rural folk long for a share of the wealth that keeps the cities flourishing while they remain neglected (1); (vi) sympathetic, pained, critical of social injustice (1). [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

Model Answer

Section C — Vistas extract (any one).

(A) The Third Level: (i) only two levels (1); (ii) **third** (1); (iii) because his claim of a third level worries him, and the friend calls it a “waking-dream wish fulfilment”, a way of escaping insecurity and fear (1); (iv) **escape from anxiety** (1).

(B) The Tiger King: (i) that the king would one day die, and that his death would come from a tiger (1); (ii) **comic/absurd** (1); (iii) it drives him to hunt and kill a hundred tigers in order to defeat the prophecy (1); (iv) **satirical** (1). [Go Back to Q8](#)

Q9.

Model Answer

Section C — Flamingo extract (any one).

(A) Deep Water: (i) a big boy of about eighteen (1); (ii) **bottom** of the pool (1); (iii) he planned that when his feet hit the bottom he would make a big jump and come back up to the surface (1); (iv) **could still think** (1); (v) it leaves him with a deep, lasting fear of water that haunts him for years until he consciously overcomes it (1); (vi) fear/terror (1).

(B) Indigo: (i) he refused to be ordered about by the British in his own country (1); (ii) **Champanan** (1); (iii) because he sees civil courage as a simple, natural duty, not something extraordinary (1); (iv) **self-reliance and courage** (1); (v) they were forced by the landlords to grow indigo on part of their land and hand it over as rent (1); (vi) courage / humility / self-reliance (any one) (1). [Go Back to Q9](#)



Q10.

Model Answer**Section C — Short answers (any five; 2 marks each).**

- (i) Keats lists the sun, the moon, old and young trees, daffodils, clear streams and cooling covers in the forest, and the tales of mighty dead—simple natural joys that lift our spirits and bind us to life despite suffering.
- (ii) Aunt Jennifer’s “prancing, proud and unafraid” tigers symbolise the freedom, strength and fearlessness she herself lacks in a repressive marriage. They are her creative escape—an image of the bold, liberated spirit denied to her real, “terrified” life.
- (iii) The questions made Eco reflect that he works in the “interstices”—the empty spaces between tasks. He explained that his sense of doing so much comes from using small gaps of time and pursuing a single guiding philosophical interest across all his work.
- (iv) Gandhi’s arrival gave the frightened peasants courage. Seeing a leader ready to defy the British and share their struggle, they gathered in large numbers, their fear of the landlords began to lift, and they felt, perhaps for the first time, that they were not alone.
- (v) Douglas learned that fear itself, not the water, was his real enemy, and that it could be conquered through steady effort and will. His triumph taught him the truth that “all we have to fear is fear itself”.
- (vi) She puts the painful thought of her mother’s ageing, frailty and approaching death away because it hurts too much to dwell on; she hides her fear behind a smile to protect both herself and her mother.

(Any five \times 2 = 10) [Go Back to Q10](#)

Q11.

Model Answer**Section C — Vistas short answers (any two; 2 marks each).**

- (i) Mr. Lamb urges Derry to look past his burnt face, to value his mind and abilities, to face the world instead of hiding, and to see that everyone carries some “scar”—what matters is how one chooses to live.
- (ii) Antarctica, with its ancient ice recording the planet’s past, warns that human activity and rising temperatures could unravel a delicate balance. The



melting ice is a signal that unchecked warming threatens the future of all life on Earth.

- (iii) Zitkala-Sa and Bama learn that dignity must not be surrendered to prejudice or humiliation. The everyday insults of caste and race sting deeply, but the lesson is to resist meekness and to claim one's self-respect through education and awareness.

(Any two $\times 2 = 4$) [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

Model Answer

Section C — Long answer, Flamingo (any one; 5 marks).

(A) Deep Water: A childhood ducking, and the terror of being thrown into the deep end, left Douglas with a paralysing fear of water that shadowed him for years. He shows that fear, if unfaced, can shrink a life. Through patient, disciplined practice with an instructor, and finally alone at Lake Wentworth, he confronts and defeats “the terror”. The larger lesson—“All we have to fear is fear itself”—is that fears are conquered not by avoidance but by deliberate, courageous effort. (*Value points: origin of fear; its grip; systematic effort; final triumph; universal message. Content 3, expression 2.*)

(B) The Last Lesson: On the day French is forbidden in Alsace, M. Hamel's grief and Franz's sudden regret reveal how language carries a people's identity. Hamel calls French “the key to their prison”, for a conquered people who hold on to their tongue keep their freedom alive within. The villagers' presence and Hamel's trembling “Vive la France!” show that love of language and love of country are one. (*Content 3, expression 2.*) [Go Back to Q12](#)

Q13.

Model Answer

Section C — Long answer, Vistas (any one; 5 marks).

(A) The Enemy: Dr. Sadao finds a wounded American prisoner washed ashore in wartime Japan. As a patriot he should hand him over; as a trained surgeon he cannot let a man die. His medical conscience and basic humanity win: he operates and nurses the enemy back to health, then quietly helps him escape. The story shows that the doctor's moral duty to save life rises above national hatred and even personal danger. (*Content 3, expression 2.*)

(B) The Third Level: Overwhelmed by the “insecurity, fear, war, worry” of modern



life, Charley imagines a third level at Grand Central leading to the calm, gentle world of 1894. His search is a psychological escape—a wish to flee an anxious present for a safer past. Finney suggests that such escapism is a common human response to the stresses of the modern world. (*Content 3, expression 2.*) **Go Back to Q13**

